

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 202028
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 /038 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/PAB:MHORNBLOW:DE
APPROVED BY NEA:JMIKLOS
EUR/NE:DWOOLFLEY
P:JFORBES

-----022795 101057Z /13

R 100033Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KABUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 202028

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, UK

SUBJECT: BRITISH POSITION ON DURAND LINE

1. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY MIKLOS (NEA) MET AUG 1 WITH MILLINGTON OF BRITISH EMBASSY TO DISCUSS BRITISH POSITION ON DURAND LINE. MEETING TOOK PLACE BECAUSE AS A RESULT OF NEWSOM TRIP TO PAKISTAN WE ARE CONSIDERING REAFFIRMING OUR POSITION ON DURAND LINE TO PAK GOVERNMENT AND WISHED TO CONSULT WITH BRITISH BEFORE TAKING THIS STEP.

2. MILLINGTON SAID THAT PRIME MINISTER MACMILLAN MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS ON MAY 20, 1960: "HMG FULLY SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN IN MAINTAINING THEIR SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE AREA EAST OF THE DURAND LINE AND IN REGARDING THIS LINE AS THE INTERNATIONAL FRONTIER WITH AFGHANISTAN. I AM ENCOURAGED TO BELIEVE THAT THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT SHARE THIS VIEW IN THAT THEY
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HAVE STATED THAT THEY HAVE NO TERRITORIAL CLAIMS."

3. MILLINGTON ALSO SAID THAT THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR IN KABUL INFORMED THE DRA MINISTER FOR FRONTIER AFFAIRS ON JUNE 4, 1978 THAT "RECOGNITION OF THE BORDER (DURAND LINE) WAS AN INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATION SPECIFICALLY REFERRED TO IN THE TREATY OF AUGUST 8, 1919 -- IT COULD BE RENEGOTIATED

BUT NO ONE COULD PRETEND IT DID NOT EXIST." VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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